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RR RUEHHM  
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FM AMEMBASSY HANOI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3865  
INFO RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH 2066  
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 5226  
RHMFIUU/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC  
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFIUU/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFIUU/TSA HQ WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS HANOI 002772

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
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STATE FOR EB/TRA/OTP AND EAP/MLS  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PASS TO TSA REP SWALLOPPILLAI

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [EAIR](#) [ECON](#) [PTER](#) [VM](#)  
SUBJECT: OPEN TO IDEA OF FFDO PROGRAM

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REF: State 165447

11. (SBU) Summary. Vietnamese Civil Aviation Official was generally open to the idea of the proposed Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program. Embassy is seeking answers to his questions about the program from the Transportation Security Administration representative in Bangkok. End summary.

12. (SBU) On October 10, Econ/C discussed reftel points on the proposed Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program with the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam's (CAAV) Aviation Security Department Deputy Director Mr. Nguyen Van Linh. Linh was generally open to the proposal. Referring to the current arrangement permitting Federal Air Marshals to fly armed on U.S. flights to and from Vietnam, Linh indicated that CAAV would likely be willing to discuss a similar agreement authorizing the FFDO program.

13. (SBU) Linh was interested in seeing a draft bilateral agreement template on FFDO. He also asked for information on: how the FFDO program operates in the United States; details on the requirements a pilot must satisfy to be eligible for the FFDO program; and applicability of the FFDO program to foreign air carriers now and in the future. Econ/C explained some of the questions could best be addressed in the course of further discussions for negotiations over a bilateral agreement to facilitate FFDO flights to and from Vietnam.

14. (SBU) Responding to Linh's request, on October 17 the Embassy submitted a diplomatic note to CAAV to request beginning discussions to negotiate for the FFDO program.

15. (SBU) As instructed in reftel, Embassy will work with the regional Transportation Security Administration representative in Bangkok to address Vietnam's concerns and questions as expressed by Linh.

MARINE